

REMARKS

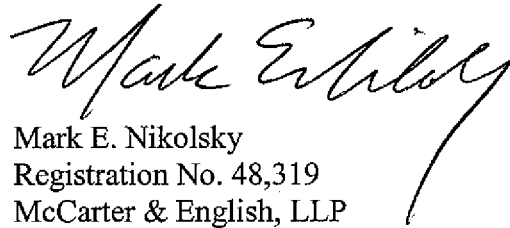
Applicant submits this response to the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified application. Attorney for Applicant has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action, and submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

All of the pending claims were rejected in the Office Action as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,993,615 to Falcon, the primary reference, in various combinations with the following references: U.S. Patent No. 6,163,079 to Miyazaki, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0085730 to Holland, U.S. Patent No. 6,648,661 to Byrne, et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0180767 to Northway, et al., and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0091123 to Stark, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the present Office Action, and submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in any combination.

In an effort to advance prosecution, Applicant submits herewith a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by inventor Ira M. Marlow. The Declaration establishes that the present invention was actually reduced to practice prior to June 4, 2001. Accordingly, since the present invention was actually reduced to practice prior to the earliest effective filing date of Falcon, the primary reference, all of the rejections in the Office Action are rendered moot since they are all premised upon Falcon. Applicant also notes that actual reduction to practice of the present invention, as established in the Declaration, occurred prior to the earliest effective filing dates of Holland, Byrne, et al., Northway, et al., and Stark, et al. As such, these references are also removed as prior art.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to have been addressed. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-19, 21, and 23-41 are pending and are in condition for allowance. Re-examination has been requested and favorable action solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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